

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Board of Trustees was held on Friday, February 9, 2024, at 11:15 a.m., in the Silver Maple Ballroom (401) at the Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ron Lumbra, Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart¹, Secretary Catherine Toll, Otto Berkes, Susan Brengle, Robert Brennan, Katelynn Briere, Frank Cioffi², John Dineen³, Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella, Jodi Goldstein, Kenny Nguyen, Donald McCree³, Ed Pagano³, Kristina Pisanelli, Lucy Rogers, Shap Smith, Tristan Toleno³, and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Christie, Stephanie Jerome, Carol Ode, Monique Priestley, and Governor Phil Scott

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Associate Director, Planning Design & Construction David Blatchley and Associate Director of Planning Lisa Kingsbury

¹Joined the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

²Joined the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

³Joined by phone

Chair Ron Lumbra called the meeting to order at 11:18 a.m.

Approval of minutes

Chair Lumbra presented the October 20-21, 2023, meeting minutes for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as presented.

Chair's report (see full report appended to minutes, beginning on page 6)

President's report

President Suresh Garimella began his report by acknowledging the accomplishments of UVM's athletic teams including the men's and women's basketball teams, the men's and women's hockey teams, ski team and track and field.

President Garimella introduced the following senior leaders who have recently joined UVM:

- Peter Newman, currently department head for Recreation, Park and Tourism Management at Penn State and a leading scholar in park and protected area management, joins the university this summer as the next Dean of the Rubenstein School for the Environment and Natural Resources. Dr. Newman is an alum having earned his Ph.D. at UVM.
- Bettyjo Bouchey will officially begin on Monday as the university's Chief Professional and Continuing Education Officer. She joins UVM from National Louis University in Chicago and has significant experience and innovative ways of thinking about a critical and growing part of the university's educational mission and service to Vermont in workforce development.

President Garimella reported that this week's Janus Forum welcomed two policy experts who debated the role of social media in American culture and politics and the question of the necessity of government regulation of social media. The Janus Forum is now organized as part of the Presidential Lecture Series which also includes the Aiken, Burack, and Zeltzerman lectures. The theme for this year focuses on social media. The President added that the Janis Forum and lecture series generally is intended to model civil discourse and create a sustained conversation on campus that crosses disciplines.

The President reported that he was in Montpelier last week testifying before several committees about the university's commitment to Vermonters and to research and service and acknowledged the consistent positive relationship with the state.

President Garimella concluded his report by recognizing the passing of the inaugural UVM Foundation Board Chair and Emeriti Trustee of the UVM Board of Trustees Eugene Kalkin whom he acknowledged as one of UVM's greatest champions, working tirelessly for the university and many of its important parts like the Grossman School of Business, the Humanities programs and many others.

Housing and construction projects update

Associate Director, Planning Design & Construction David Blatchley and Associate Director of Planning Lisa Kingsbury updated the trustees on two housing projects currently underway: Catamount Run and Catamount Woods.

Associate Director Blatchley reported that since the October 2023 update, the Catamount Run construction team had completed the roof trusses, roof and windows of both buildings B1 and B2. He reported that the schedule is on track for

first phase occupancy in summer 2024 and the second phase to be occupied in summer 2025. This project is designed for UVM graduate students, faculty and staff.

Associate Director Kingsbury reported that design and permitting of Catamount Woods is underway. The initial sketch plan review application has been submitted to the City of South Burlington and the first hearing with the Development Review Board was held last week and the project was well-received. The project will also require Act 250 review which will begin in the summer and take approximately three months. Associate Director Kingsbury reported that meetings are taking place with student groups including the Disabled Student Union, Resident Advisors Advisory Board, and the Student Government. The intent of these meetings is to help inform the next phase of design. The project is designed to serve undergraduate students and is expected to open in summer 2026.

At 12:08 p.m., Chair Lumbra called for a recess.

The meeting reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ron Lumbra, Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Secretary Catherine Toll, Otto Berkes, Susan Brengle, Robert Brennan, Katelynn Briere, Frank Cioffi, John Dineen¹, Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella, Jodi Goldstein, Stephanie Jerome, Kenny Nguyen, Donald McCree², Carol Ode, Ed Pagano³, Kristina Pisanelli, Lucy Rogers, Shap Smith, Tristan Toleno², and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Christie, Monique Priestley, and Governor Phil Scott

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock, Vice President for Finance and Administration Richard Cate, Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Council Trent Klingerman, Vice President for Research and Economic Development, Kirk Dombrowski, Chief of Staff to the President Jonathan D'Amore⁴, and Chief Human Resources Officer Chris Lehman

¹ Joined by phone at 3:04 p.m.

² Joined by phone

³ Joined by phone at 2:30 p.m.

⁴ Departed the meeting at 2:51 p.m.

Academic presentation – Tech Hub and Economic Development update

Beginning with showing a short video, Vice President for Research and Economic Development Kirk Dombrowski reported on the Vermont Gallium Nitride (V-GaN) Tech Hub and its importance to the university's research enterprise. Vice President

Dombrowski explained that the V-GaN Tech Hub is a consortium led by UVM with Global Foundries and the State of Vermont that was designated as one of 31 Tech Hubs by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration in the fall of 2023.

Through the V-GaN Tech Hub, UVM will work to bring more federal funding to semiconductor research, technology advancement, and economic development in Vermont. Vice President Dombrowski added that the Tech Hub will create high-compensation jobs that provide incentives for tech workers and young people to come and stay in Vermont and will enable unique opportunities to advance technology in both green energy and national security.

Vice President Dombrowski concluded his presentation by outlining other initiatives connecting UVM's growing research enterprise with key partners for economic development, including the university's work exploring the creation of an "incubator" for bio-tech research and development that would serve an important role supporting innovation in medical, environmental, and agricultural technologies in the state.

Executive Session

At 2:51 p.m., Chair Lumbra entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing labor relations agreements. He noted the session would last for approximately 60 minutes with potential for action following. Everyone was excused from the meeting with the exception of Trustees, Provost Patty Prelock, Vice Presidents Trent Klingerman and Richard Cate, and Chief Human Resources Officer Chris Lehman.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 4:00 p.m.

Other business

Chair Lumbra presented the following resolution for approval:

Resolution authorizing negotiations of collective bargaining agreements with United Academics Full-Time Faculty and with UVM Staff United

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the administration to proceed with collective bargaining agreement negotiations with United Academics Full-Time Faculty and UVM Staff United on the material terms reported on this date.

A motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Lumbra, Chair

Ron E. Lumbr
UVM Board of Trustees Chair's Report
February 9, 2024

Good morning and welcome to everyone. We have a number of important topics on our agenda to cover including an update on housing and construction projects, an academic presentation on Tech Hub and economic development, and a preview of our fiscal year 2025 budget assumptions that will lead to general fund budget approval at the spring meeting and subsequent approval of tuition and fees at the fall meeting. We will receive an update on a 5-year interim report submitted to the university's regional accreditor, the New England Commission of Higher Education, and a presentation on the refreshed Academic Success Goals. We are eager to hear from the Vice President for Research and Economic Development about the ways UVM is partnering with businesses and government entities to drive research development and elevate the social and economic impact of our research efforts.

I would like to thank all of our governance leaders for the written informational reports and our senior leaders for their assigned Enterprise Risk Management updates included in the report section of the meeting materials. Additional reports included in this section intended for review by all trustees include the Provost's report which includes updates on a variety of timely campus issues and the Vice President for Finance & Administration's report which includes an annual update on the Green Revolving Loan Fund and building project updates.

Since our last meeting in October, the ad hoc Presidential Comprehensive Review Committee met with our independent external consultant Dr. Carol Cartwright, who is assisting us with this important work. The objectives of this process include examining progress toward goals mutually set by the Board and the President. Dr. Cartwright has been on campus this week conducting interviews and focus groups with Trustees, governance group leaders, and constituents and stakeholders with direct and substantial knowledge of and experience with President Garamella and UVM. Dr. Cartwright's contact information was provided to the campus community in a memo distributed on December 5, 2023 so that community members may share their perspectives. A report from Dr. Cartwright will be provided to the ad hoc Committee in the spring and the process is anticipated to conclude at the May 2024 Board meeting after which the UVM community will be informed of the outcome of the process. Taking advantage of Dr. Cartwright's presence on campus this week, we will meet with her in executive session on Saturday to receive an interim status report presented to the full board.

I speak for the Board when I say how proud we are of the many accomplishments of students, faculty, and staff at UVM. Whether through presentations before this body, reading about exciting developments like the efforts of our Community News Service to connect student journalists to news outlets as reporters covering essential local stories, or hearing about individual successes of students in the Leahy Honors College like senior Sierra Sabec's Simon Family Fellowship or her classmate Elisabeth Roadcap, who spoke to us in May about the Honors College, who was just received a prestigious Sloan Fellowship to earn her Master's of Public Health at Cornell. It's a treat for the board to celebrate these accomplishments at UVM, and we always look forward to hearing about more.

This is the time of year when we have annual transition in membership on the Board of Trustees. This year Rob Brennan, Otto Berkes, Jodi Goldstein, and Kenny Nguyen are concluding their terms of service at the end of February. The UVM Board will elect Rob and Otto's successors at their meeting, and Jodi will be re-elected for a second six-year term. We will also welcome our newly appointed student trustee, Jenn Ha. Although, Rob, Otto, and Kenny will be formally honored tomorrow, I would like to recognize them in my remarks as we open this meeting and thank them for their dedication, loyalty, commitment, and the positive impact they've had on the Board of Trustees and the institution broadly. Thank you, Rob, Otto, Jodi, and Kenny for all you have done for UVM.

In conclusion, I need not remind anyone in this room of the intense pressures being felt in academia at the present time. With challenges ranging from concerns around the high cost and associated value proposition of higher education, challenges to diversity, equity and inclusion, concerns with social justice, a desire for more civil discourse on campus, and the health, safety, security, and well-being of our students and our community we are confronting internal and external pressures that must be faced head-on. In many cases approaches will not only require but demand balanced, comprehensive, and inclusive solutions. I can assure you the Board of Trustees is fully supportive of the administration's efforts to achieve that balance and address the challenges facing our institution.

I'm proud of the work that's been done by the administration and by those in our campus community who have taken positive actions and brought constructive suggestions to how to overcome these challenges. We will ultimately solve these challenges together by helping to achieve outcomes that are consistent with our mission, with a commitment to our students, families, and campus community, and with our common values as a NorthStar guiding our direction.

That concludes my remarks.